



**IHS Alumni Association
Minutes
Monday, Sept. 12, 2016**



Meeting Called to Order: The quarterly meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the IHS Media Center by President **Rhonee (Trakas 75) Iula** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were approximately 21 members and guests in attendance.

School Gift Option: Speaking on behalf of the high school principal, Bill McGuinness, was **Mary (Luciano 83) Dolejs**, who presented an idea to the Alumni Assn. concerning our annual gift to the high school. She explained that the school would like to host an assembly, Rachel's Challenge, featuring Darryl Scott, father of Rachel Scott, slain in the Columbine shooting. Darryl had dedicated his life to speaking engagements at high schools and middle schools across the U.S. and abroad proclaiming a message to young people on the importance of living their life with love and kindness and training student leaders to carry on this message. Mr. McGuinness is asking for our support for this assembly and is proposing a morning program for the middle school and high school students and an evening program for the general public.

Rhonee added that in years past, an alumni gift to the school included entry rugs, a tent for sports games and monetary assistance with a robotics program. Mary stated that support for the assembly comes from 25 and Alive pledges and other organizations. The speaker fee is \$7,650 of which \$5,650 has already been pledged. This leaves a shortfall of \$2,000. **Bonnie (Jorasch 69) Pandin** inquired why the fee was so high and Mary explained that the assembly is an entire day's event, with programs during the day for middle and high school students, an evening program for the public, plus training of high school leaders to continue the message of Rachel's Challenge.

Treasurer **Bob Wagner (66)** stated the Alumni Assn. generally was asked to give a tangible gift to the school, one that highlights the Alumni Assn. at work and which continues giving back to the students. He pointed out that this request is a deviation from the norm. That being said, Bob made a motion for a \$500 award, Alumni Spectator editor, **Amber Veverka (07)**, seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mary thanked the Alumni Assn. for its support. She said the high school is off to a good start this year with a few changes in staff including a new Athletic Director, Ann McGuire. Homecoming is this Friday at 7 pm.

New Business: Rhonee suggested an Alumni Night at a football game will be held on Friday, Sept. 2 with the game starting at 7 pm. The Association will put up a tent again with chairs. Seniors can attend the football game free of charge. We had 22 attend last year's event.

Webmaster, **Don Krolkowski (77)**, gave his report concerning our website. He said advertisements in the school board newsletter will indicate who sponsored the Rachel's Challenge assembly and our name will be included.

Correspondence Secretary, **Elaine (Wisnieski 57) Kukawka**, said the Association received a letter from Mayor Togliatti, thanking us for participating in Home Days and hoping we will join again next year. We sent a thank you note to **Walter Wisnieski '38** for his monetary donation to the Alumni Assn. Elaine is in the process of sending out 56 membership cards and notes.

Concerning memorabilia, Elaine is looking for someone to take over the Alumni Showcase at the high school. Did you know that IHS had a gymnastics team? See medals we received along with 2 new class rings.

As of Sept. 12, 2016 we have 198 paid members – up by 44 from the last meeting. A paid membership list by graduation year is on the front table. Please check to see if you need to pay your dues. Alumni application forms are at the front table as well. Submitted invoice for \$94.05 for alumni labels.

Treasurer's Report: As of 31 August 2016, our treasury balance is \$8,411.00. Checks were prepared to cover expenses for the Spectator mailing, Diploma of Distinction awards, Legacy Ribbons and the Alumni Brunch. We made money at the brunch raffles but not on the tickets. A discussion was held on raffle prizes won by alumni who were not present for the event. Since they were unable to come forward to select a prize, they were sent a gift card instead, due to the cost of shipping prizes across the country. Rhonee said this procedure was followed in the past.

Alumni Spectator Newsletter: Rhonee thanked Amber for another excellent newsletter. Amber mentioned she was forwarded an article about Holly Evans who now works for the FBI in Kansas. Jack Katzenmeyer (57) is writing an article about Wes Gaab for the Spectator.

Home Days Brunch 2016: Rhonee advised that we lost our caterer 5 weeks before the brunch date. Since we had a new caterer, we ended up paying more for the food and, therefore, made no profit on the ticket sales. Pat (Czarniak 60) Stephan said tickets will be printed next year and she will accept the tickets at the door. She'll also bring bakery. Kelly Hatfield (78) and Wendy (Schmidt 68) Manfredi will work on raffle prizes. They urged all members to donate 1 quality item for the raffle. Chris Zamborsky (78) reserved the Kiwanis Pavilion for 2017. He said we could have sold more tickets but we are restricted to 20 tables by the City of Independence.

Rhonee said graduating seniors received packets listing Legacy Ribbon qualifications and an application to join the Association. A question was asked how do we boost membership? Don Krolikowski said that besides our email blasts, he sends out tweets. Wendy suggested the Association should have a membership drive and those who joined by a specific date be entered into a raffle for a prize. Don suggested that Alumni help out at athletic events for the exposure afforded our organization. He posed that Alumni could be ticket takers at a play. Dale Veverka (70) said he and Bob Wagner escorted the graduates out of the auditorium on graduation day. There were 23 or 24 legacy ribbons issued.

Rhonee said there are a couple boxes of slides available from Bill Taylor's Biology Society trips and functions. Anyone who wants them, contact Kelly Hatfield. All slides have been digitized. Rhonee asked if everyone had read the Minutes. Motion was made to accept the Minutes as written. It passed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Jorasch Pandin
Recording Secretary